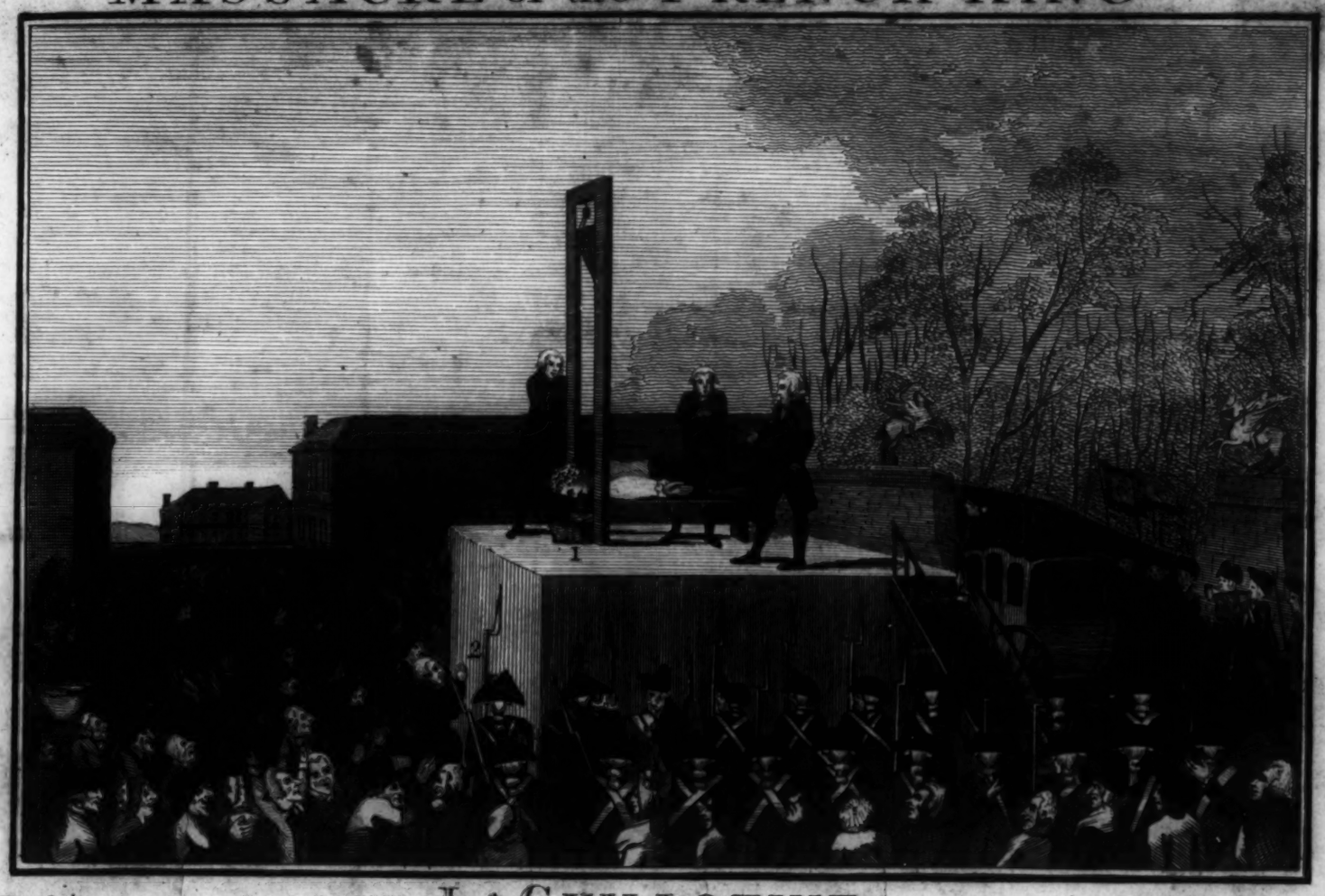
MASSACRE of the FRENCH KING



1 The King
2 His Confessor

LA GUILLOTINE
or the MODERN BEHEADING MACHINE at PARIS.

3 Gen' Santerre
4 Mayor of Paris

By which the unfortunate LOUIS XVI. (late King of France) suffered on the Scaffold, January 21st, 1793:

Decree of the National Convention of the 15th, 17th, 19th, and 20th of January, 1793.

ARTICLE I.

THE National Convention declares LOUIS CAPET, last King of the French, guilty of a conspiracy against the Liberty of the Nation, and of a crime against the general safety of the State.

II. The National Convention declares, that LOUIS CAPET shall undergo the punishment of DEATH.

III. The National Convention declares, that the act of LOUIS CAPET, brought to the bar by his Counsel, and termed an Appeal to the Nation on the Sentence passed against him in the Convention, is null; and forbids every person from giving it authority, on pain of being prosecuted, and punished as guilty of a crime against the general safety of the Republic.

IV. The Temporal Executive Counsel shall notify the present Decree, within the Day, to LOUIS CAPET, and shall take the necessary measures of police and safety to secure its execution within *twenty-four hours*, reckoning from the notification, and shall render an account of the whole to the National Convention immediately after its execution.

Report of the Council who communicated the Decree to LOUIS.

The Executive Council was convoked and assembled at a very early hour this morning, in order to consult on the execution of a decree, relative to LOUIS CAPET.

The Council then sent for the Mayor of Paris, the Commandant General, the President, and the *Accusateur Public* of the Criminal Tribunal: After having consulted with these constituted authorities, the Minister of Justice, the President of the Executive Council, a member of the Council, the Secretary of the Council, and two Members of the Department repaired to the Tower in the Temple.

At two o'clock they were conducted before LOUIS, to whom the Minister of Justice, as President of the Executive Council, spoke as follows:

LOUIS, the Executive Council hath charged us to notify to you the Extracts of the *Proces-Verbal* of the National Convention of the 15th, 17th, and 19th of the present month: the Secretary will now read them.—[On this the Secretary of the Executive Council read the three above Articles.

LOUIS then observed, that he had something to say; on which he took out the following requisition, written with, and signed by his own hand.

"I demand a delay of three days, in order to enable me to appear in the presence of Almighty God; and the better to effect this, I request leave to call to my aid the Ex-Bishop of Fermont, who lodges at No. 483, *Rue de Bacq.*

"I demand that his person be protected from all manner of insult, in order that he may be enabled to deliver himself up without fear to the work of charity which he is about to be employed in, with respect to me.

"I demand to be freed from the perpetual inspection which the General Council of the Commons has made use of towards me for some time past.

"I demand, that during this interval, I may be permitted to see my Family, without any witness, every time that I solicit this permission.

"I desire that the National Convention may deliberate immediately about the fate of my Family, and that they may be permitted to retire wherever they please.

"I recommend all the persons who were attached to me, to the care and protection of the Nation. There are many of them who have expended the whole of their fortunes, in order to purchase their places, and must consequently be in great distress.

"Among my pensioners are a great number of old men, and of poor people burthened with large families, who have not any thing to subsist on but the allowance which I paid them.

"*Given at the Tower in the Temple,*
January 20, 1793.

(Signed) "LOUIS."

The Convention having heard the Report of the Minister decrees,

That the *respite* demanded by LOUIS *shall not be granted.*

That the vigilance of the Municipality shall be continued in the chamber adjoining that of LOUIS. Respecting

father of LOUIS was standing, before the 10th of August, and the Avenues which led to the groves, called the *Elysian Fields*. The trotting and neighing of horses, the shrill sound of the trumpet, and the continual beating of drums, pierced the ears of every beholder, and heightened the terrors of the awful scene.

The scaffold was high and conspicuous, and the houses surrounding the place of Execution were full of women, who looked through the windows. The very slates which covered the roofs were raised for the curious and interested to peep through.

The King alighted from the carriage at twenty minutes past ten. His hair was dressed in curls, his beard shaved; he wore a clean shirt and stock, a white waistcoat, black florentine silk breeches, black silk stockings, and his shoes were tied with black silk strings. At the foot of the scaffold he threw off his coat himself, and finding some difficulty in unbuckling his stock, he calmly thanked a by-stander, who assisted him.—His hair was then cut off, when he took leave of his confessor, who himself shed a thousand tears on this mournful occasion; but roused the King with these animating expressions: "FAREWELL LOUIS! *ascend the Scaffold and go to Heaven.*"—He then mounted the steps with heroic assurance, and every feature of his majestic countenance bespoke the calm serenity of conscious innocence, and the heroic fortitude of a Christian. Having walked half round the horrid preparations, he then beckoned with his hand to be heard; the noise of the warlike instruments ceased for a moment; but soon after a thousand voices vociferated, with detestable ferocity, "*No speeches! No harangues!*" The unfortunate Monarch wrung his hands—lifted them up towards heaven—and with agony in his eye and gesture, exclaimed, distinctly enough to be heard by those persons who were next to the scaffold, "*To thee, O God, do I commend my soul! I forgive my enemies! I die innocent!*"

He was then seized by the Executioner, dressed in black, who directly laid him upon his belly on the bench, and lifted up the upper part of the board which was to receive his neck, adjusted his head properly, then shut the board and pulled the string which is fastened to the peg at the top of the machine, which lifted up a latch, and down came the axe; [See the annexed plate] the head was off in a moment, and fell into a basket which was ready to receive it; the Executioner took it out by the hair, to show the populace, and then put it into another basket along with the body. The final part of his Execution was exactly twenty-two minutes past ten.

After his head was cut off, the *Sans Culottes* and *Jacobines* waved their hats in the air, exclaiming, *Vive la nation! Vive la Republique!* The music struck up *Ca Ira*, and the body was immediately removed in a black coffin.—The procession returned to the Temple, and the sworn Deputies went to make their report.

DESCRIPTION OF LA GUILLOTINE.

This destructive instrument is in the form of a Painter's Easel; about ten or twelve feet high. At two feet from the bottom is a cross bar, on which the head is placed, in a circular opening, to contain the neck, in the form of the English pillory, which is kept down by another placed above. In the inner edge of the frame are grooves, on the top of which is placed a sharp axe, with a heavy weight of lead suspended at the top by cords through a block, and which axe is kept up by being fastened to a peg, about four feet from the bottom of the machine, which on the executioner's taking out, the axe falls and beheads the criminal.

He is first tied to a plank of about eighteen inches broad, and an inch thick, standing upright, fastened with cords about the arms, belly and legs; this plank is about four feet long, and comes almost up the chin; the executioner then lays him on his belly on the bench, lifts up the upper part of the board which receives his neck, adjusts his head, then shuts the board, and pulls the string fastened to the peg at the top of the machine, which lifts up a catch. The axe falls down, and the head, which is off in a moment, is received in a basket ready for that purpose, as is the body in another basket.—This preparation was omitted in the Execution of this unfortunate Monarch, he being immediately placed at length under the machine.

LOUIS made a will, in which he asked pardon of God, for having sanctioned the Decree upon the Civil Constitution of the Clergy, although this sanction was extorted by violence; and was contrary to his solemn protest.

In this testament, LOUIS acknowledges his having freely accepted all the other parts of the Constitution; and having neglected nothing to remove from his dominions the scourge of War, and prevent the invasion of the Prussians.

In a previous Decree made by the National Convention, the place for putting their inhuman sentence into execution was to have been the Carousel, fronting the Palace of the Tuileries. This was changed by the Ministers, to whom all the arrangements were confided, to the Place de la Revolution, heretofore the Place LOUIS XV.

This City yesterday resembled an immense Camp; the Sections and Federates were marching and counter-marching

By which the unfortunate LOUIS XVI. (late King of France) ſuffered on the Scaffold, January 21ſt, 1793:

Decree of the National Convention of the 15th, 17th, 19th, and 20th of January, 1793.

ARTICLE I.

THE National Convention declares LOUIS CAPET, laſt King of the French, guilty of a conſpiracy againſt the Liberty of the Nation, and of a crime againſt the general ſafety of the State.

II. The National Convention declares, that LOUIS CAPET ſhall undergo the puniſhment of DEATH.

III. The National Convention declares, that the act of LOUIS CAPET, brought to the bar by his Counſel, and termed an Appeal to the Nation on the Sentence paſſed againſt him in the Convention, is null; and forbids every perſon from giving it authority, on pain of being proſecuted, and puniſhed as guilty of a crime againſt the general ſafety of the Republic.

IV. The Temporal Executive Counſel ſhall notify the preſent Decree, within the Day, to LOUIS CAPET, and ſhall take the neceſſary meaſures of police and ſafety to ſecure its execution within *twenty-four hours*, reckoning from the notification, and ſhall render an account of the whole to the National Convention immediately after its execution.

Report of the Council who communicated the Decree to LOUIS.

The Executive Council was convoked and aſſembled at a very early hour this morning, in order to conſult on the execution of a decree, relative to LOUIS CAPET.

The Council then ſent for the Mayor of Paris, the Commandant General, the Preſident, and the *Accuſateur Public* of the Criminal Tribunal: After having conſulted with theſe conſtituted authorities, the Miniſter of Juſtice, the Preſident of the Executive Council, a member of the Council, the Secretary of the Council, and two Members of the Department repaired to the Tower in the Temple.

At two o'clock they were conducted before LOUIS, to whom the Miniſter of Juſtice, as Preſident of the Executive Council, ſpoke as follows:

LOUIS, the Executive Council hath charged us to notify to you the Extracts of the *Proces-Verbal* of the National Convention of the 15th, 17th, and 19th of the preſent month: the Secretary will now read them.—[On this the Secretary of the Executive Council read the three above Articles.

LOUIS then obſerved, that he had ſomething to ſay; on which he took out the following requiſition, written with, and ſigned by his own hand.

"I demand a delay of three days, in order to enable me to appear in the preſence of Almighty God; and the better to effect this, I requeſt leave to call to my aid the Ex-Biſhop of Fermont, who lodges at No. 483, *Rue de Bacq.*

"I demand that his perſon be protected from all manner of inſult, in order that he may be enabled to deliver himſelf up without fear to the work of charity which he is about to be employed in, with reſpect to me.

"I demand to be freed from the perpetual inſpection which the General Council of the Commons has made uſe of towards me for ſome time paſt.

"I demand, that during this interval, I may be permitted to ſee my Family, without any witneſs, every time that I ſolicit this permiſſion.

"I deſire that the National Convention may deliberate immediately about the fate of my Family, and that they may be permitted to retire wherever they pleaſe.

"I recommend all the perſons who were attached to me, to the care and protection of the Nation. There are many of them who have expended the whole of their fortunes, in order to purchaſe their places, and muſt conſequently be in great diſtreſs.

"Among my penſioners are a great number of old men, and of poor people burthened with large families, who have not any thing to ſubſiſt on but the allowance which I paid them.

"*Given at the Tower in the Temple,*
January 20, 1793.

(Signed) "LOUIS."

The Convention having heard the Report of the Miniſter decrees,

That the *reſpite* demanded by LOUIS *ſhall not be granted.*

That the vigilance of the Municipality ſhall be continued in the chamber adjoining that of LOUIS. Reſpecting the other points, the Convention paſſes to the order of the day, conſidering that the Committee of Legiſlation is competent thereto.

ORDERS FOR THE DAY.

January 20, 1793.—*Second Year of the Republic.*

The Proviſional Executive Council, after deliberating on the meaſures to be taken, in order to execute the decrees of the National Convention of the 15th, 17th, 19th and 20th of January, 1793, has ordered as follows:

I. That the Execution of the Judgment of LOUIS CAPET ſhall take place to-morrow, Monday the 21ſt.

II. The place of Execution ſhall be *Le Place de la Revolution, ci-devant Louis XV.* between the Pedeſtal and the Elyſian Fields.

III. LOUIS CAPET ſhall leave the Temple by eight o'clock in the morning, and the Execution ſhall take place at noon.

IV. Commiſſaries from the department of Paris, Commiſſaries from the Municipality, and two Members of the *Tribunal Criminel*, ſhall aſſiſt at the Execution. The Secretary of the Tribunal ſhall draw up the *Proces-Verbal*; and the ſaid Commiſſaries and Members of the Tribunal, immediately after the Execution, ſhall render an account of it to the Council, who will remain permanent during the whole day.

V. LOUIS CAPET ſhall paſs by the *Boulevards* to the Place of Execution.

By the Executive Proviſional Council,

ROLAND, CLAVIERE, | MONGE, LEBRUN, | GARAT, PACHE.

By Order of the Council,
GRONVILLE, Secretary.

On which the Period of his Fate, and the Day of Execution, took Place, and was as follows:

At ſix o'clock in the morning he took his laſt farewell of the Queen and Royal Family, and was with them ſome time; the parting was affecting to the laſt degree; the diſtreſs of the Queen paſſed all deſcription. He left the Temple agreeable to the Inſtructions from the Provincial Council, at eight o'clock, at which time the mournful proceſſion ſet out from the Temple. The Royal Victim ſat in the Mayor's Carriage, with his Confeſſor by his ſide, praying very fervently, and two Captains of National Light Horſe on the front ſeat. The carriage was drawn by two black horſes, preceded by the Mayor, General Santerre, and other Municipal Officers. One ſquadron of horſe, with trumpeters and kettle-drums, led the van of this melancholy convoy; three heavy pieces of ordnance, with proper implements, and cannoneers, with lighted matches, went before the vehicle, which was eſcorted on both ſides by a treble row of troopers.

The train moved on with a ſlow pace from the Temple to the *Boulevards*, which was planted with cannon, and beſet with National Guards, drums beating, trumpets ſounding, and colours flying. The *Guillotine* † was erected in the middle of the ſquare, directly facing the gate of the garden of the *Tuileries*, between the Pedeſtal on which the Grand-father of LOUIS was ſtanding, before the 10th of Auguſt, and the Avenues which led to the groves, called the *Elyſian Fields*. The trotting and neighing of horſes, the ſhrill ſound of the trumpet, and the continual beating of drums, pierced the ears of every beholder, and heightened the terrors of the awful ſcene.

The ſcaffold was high and conſpicuous, and the houſes ſurrounding the place of Execution were full of women, who looked through the windows. The very ſlates which covered the roofs were raiſed for the curious and intereſted to peep through.

The King alighted from the carriage at twenty minutes paſt ten. His hair was dreſſed in curls, his beard ſhaved; he wore a clean ſhirt and ſtock, a white waiſtcoat, black florentine ſilk breeches, black ſilk ſtockings, and his ſhoes were tied with black ſilk ſtrings. At the foot of the ſcaffold he threw off his coat himſelf, and finding ſome difficulty in unbuckling his ſtock, he calmly thanked a by-ſtander, who aſſiſted him.—His hair was then cut off, when he took leave of his confeſſor, who himſelf ſhed a thouſand tears on this mournful occaſion; but roüſed the King with theſe animating expreſſions: "FAREWELL LOUIS! *aſcend the Scaffold and go to Heaven.*"—He then mounted the ſteps with heroic aſſurance, and every feature of his majeſtic countenance beſpoke the calm ſerenity of conſcious innocence, and the heroic fortitude of a Chriſtian. Having walked half round the horrid preparations, he then beckoned with his hand to be heard; the noiſe of the warlike inſtruments ceaſed for a moment; but ſoon after a thouſand voices vociferated, with deteſtable ferocity, "*No ſpeeches! No harangues!*" The unfortunate Monarch wrung his hands—lifted them up towards heaven—and with agony in his eye and geſture, exclaimed, diſtinctly enough to be heard by thoſe perſons who were next to the ſcaffold, "*To thee, O God, do I commend my ſoul! I forgive my enemies! I die innocent!*"

He was then ſeized by the Executioner, dreſſed in black, who directly laid him upon his belly on the bench, and lifted up the upper part of the board which was to receive his neck, adjuſted his head properly, then ſhut the board and pulled the ſtring which is faſtened to the peg at the top of the machine, which lifted up a latch, and down came the axe; [See the annexed plate] the head was off in a moment, and fell into a baſket which was ready to receive it; the Executioner took it out by the hair, to ſhow the populace, and then put it into another baſket along with the body. The final part of his Execution was exactly twenty-two minutes paſt ten.

After his head was cut off, the *Sans Culottes* and *Jacobines* waved their hats in the air, exclaiming, *Vive la nation! Vive la Republique!* The muſic ſtruck up *Ca Ira*, and the body was immediately removed in a black coffin.—The proceſſion returned to the Temple, and the ſworn Deputies went to make their report.

DESCRIPTION OF LA GUILLOTINE.

This deſtructive inſtrument is in the form of a Painter's Eaſel; about ten or twelve feet high. At two feet from the bottom is a croſs bar, on which the head is placed, in a circular opening, to contain the neck, in the form of the Engliſh pillory, which is kept down by another placed above. In the inner edge of the frame are grooves, on the top of which is placed a ſharp axe, with a heavy weight of lead ſuſpended at the top by cords through a block, and which axe is kept up by being faſtened to a peg, about four feet from the bottom of the machine, which on the executioner's taking out, the axe falls and beheads the criminal.

He is firſt tied to a plank of about eighteen inches broad, and an inch thick, ſtanding upright, faſtened with cords about the arms, belly and legs; this plank is about four feet long, and comes almoſt up the chin; the executioner then lays him on his belly on the bench, lifts up the upper part of the board which receives his neck, adjuſts his head, then ſhuts the board, and pulls the ſtring faſtened to the peg at the top of the machine, which lifts up a catch. The axe falls down, and the head, which is off in a moment, is received in a baſket ready for that purpoſe, as is the body in another baſket.—This preparation was omitted in the Execution of this unfortunate Monarch, he being immediately placed at length under the machine.

LOUIS made a will, in which he aſked pardon of God, for having ſanctioned the Decree upon the Civil Conſtitution of the Clergy, although this ſanction was extorted by violence; and was contrary to his ſolemn proteſt.

In this teſtament, LOUIS acknowledges his having freely accepted all the other parts of the Conſtitution; and having neglected nothing to remove from his dominions the ſcourge of War, and prevent the invaſion of the Pruſſians.

In a previous Decree made by the National Convention, the place for putting their inhuman ſentence into execution was to have been the Carouſel, fronting the Palace of the Tuileries. This was changed by the Miniſters, to whom all the arrangements were confided, to the Place de la Revolution, heretofore the Place LOUIS XV.

This City yeſterday reſembled an immenſe Camp; the Sections and Federates were marching and counter-marching through the different diſtricts;—they had their watch word;—they wheeled round wherever one corps met the other. They carried with them upwards of 153 pieces of heavy artillery, and it made a moſt impoſing ſpectacle. They were conſtantly in motion, and could not ſtand ſtill five minutes.

During the exhibition of this horrid ſcene, all Paris was in conſternation.

The Commiſſaries of the Temple found in the King's deſk ſome gold coin, to the amount of about 3000 livres. It was done up in rouleaus, and on them was written, "to M. Malaſherbes." This grateful bequeſt of the deceaſed Monarch was not complied with—the money was depoſited in the Secretary's Office.

The following Anecdotes ſhew that for ſome time he had been expecting his Fate.

LOUIS ſaw his laſt moment approaching with coolneſs and tranquillity. It is long ſince he reſolved to ſacrifice life, if we may judge from the two following anecdotes.

Two years ago, M. de Liancourt repreſenting to LOUIS, that the modifications and the *veto* which he oppoſed to certain Degrees might be dangerous—"What can they do?" replied LOUIS, "They will put me to death—well, I ſhall obtain an immortal for a mortal crown."

The other Anecdote is more recent, and proves, like the former, that LOUIS never feared death.—On the day that Deſeze made his defence in the Convention, Malaſherbes, in a converſation which he had with LOUIS in the evening, wiſhed to prepare him for the event, by hinting, that his defence might not be attended with the deſired effect, and that the iſſue of the trial was uncertain. "I underſtand you," replied LOUIS; "but my reſolution is already taken. I ſee, without fear, my laſt hour approaching; and I ſhall lay my head on the block without uneaſineſs. You will, perhaps, be ſurpriſed when I tell you, that my wife and ſiſter think exactly as I do."

The laſt requeſts of the unfortunate LOUIS breathes the ſoul of magnanimity, and a mind enlightened with the fineſt ideas of human virtue. He appears not to be that man which his enemies reported.—His heart was ſound, his head was clear, and he would have reigned with glory, had he but poſſeſſed thoſe faults which his aſſaſſins laid to his charge.—His mind poſſeſſed the ſuggeſtions of wiſdom; and even in his laſt moments, when the ſpirit of life was winged for another world, his lips gave utterance to them, and he ſpoke with firmneſs and reſignation.

Thus ended the life of LOUIS XVI. after a period of four years detention; during which he experienced from his ſubjects every ſpecies of ignominy and cruelty, which a people could inflict on the moſt ſanguinary tyrant.—LOUIS XVI. who was proclaimed at the commencement of his reign, THE FRIEND OF THE PEOPLE; and by the Conſtituent Aſſembly, THE RESTORER OF THEIR LIBERTIES.—LOUIS, who but a few years ſince was the moſt powerful monarch in Europe, has at laſt periſhed on a ſcaffold. Neither his own natural goodneſs of heart—his deſire to procure the happineſs of his ſubjects—nor that ancient love which the French entertained for their monarch, has been ſufficient to ſave him from this CRUEL SACRIFICE.

† A more particular account of this machine may be ſeen in TWISS's TRIP to PARIS, lately publiſhed.

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